

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding *A. fumigatus* cofilin protein, wherein the protein has the following properties: (i) the protein's activity includes binding to actin; and (ii) the protein has a sequence that has greater than 90% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2 as measured using a sequence comparison algorithm.

2. An isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 1, wherein the protein specifically binds to polyclonal antibodies to a protein comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

3. An isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes SEQ ID NO:2.

4. An isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid has a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. An isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid selectively hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to SEQ ID NO:1.

6. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a *Aspergillus fumigatus* cofilin protein, wherein the protein has the following properties: (i) the protein's activity includes binding to actin; and (ii) the protein has a sequence that has greater than 90% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2 as measured using a sequence comparison algorithm.

7. A host cell transfected with the vector of claim 6.

8. An isolated *Aspergillus fumigatus* cofilin protein, wherein the protein has greater than 90% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2 as measured using a sequence comparison algorithm.

9. An isolated protein of claim 8, wherein the protein specifically binds to polyclonal antibodies to *A. fumigatus* cofilin.

5 10. An isolated protein of claim 8, wherein the protein is *A. fumigatus* cofilin.

11. An isolated protein of claim 8, wherein the protein has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 2.

10 12. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence which has greater than 80% sequence identity with nucleotide SEQ ID NO:1.

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